

Department of East Asian Studies
Ph.D. PROGRAM HANDBOOK
School of Humanities
443 Humanities Instructional Building
<http://www.humanities.uci.edu/eastasian/>

Last revised: November 2024

This handbook is a compilation of requirements and advice made for reference purposes.
Please visit catalogue.uci.edu for the most up-to-date official requirements.

Table of Contents

Department	Overview	3
Department Directory	East Asian	4-5
Studies PhD Program		
Advising		6
Student Progress Evaluations		6
Specializations		7
Chinese		7
Japanese		8
East Asian Cultural Studies		9
Emphases		9
Qualifying Exam		10-
Advancement to Candidacy		11
Policies		11-
General Department Policies		12 13
UC Irvine Policies		13-14
Resources and Services		15

Department Overview

The East Asian Studies Department offers a program of graduate study leading to the Ph.D. degree in East Asian Studies, with specializations in Chinese, Japanese, and East Asian Cultural Studies. The M.A. degree may be awarded to Ph.D. students in progress toward the doctoral degree.

The graduate program emphasizes rigorous training in language and textual analysis, with equal attention given to the historical, social, and cultural dimensions of literary study. In addition to more traditional vocabularies of criticism and theory, the curriculum encourages exploration of recent challenges to established conceptual and methodological frameworks. The program builds on the foundation of a faculty whose research interests engage major issues in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean literature and culture, while developing connections with the larger community of scholarship at UCI.

The graduate program is designed to prepare students for both college-level teaching and advanced research. To this end, each student will serve, under direct faculty supervision, as a teaching assistant in an appropriate undergraduate course offered through the Department.

Department Directory

Staff & Administrators

Name	Title	Office	Phone	Email
Kyung Hyun Kim	Department Chair	HIB 457	(949)824-2165	kyunghk@uci.edu
Serk-Bae Suh	Graduate Faculty Advisor	HIB 472		suhsb@uci.edu
HuYing	Undergraduate Faculty Advisor	HIB 475		huying@uci.edu
Kazumo Washizuka	Department Manager	HIB 459		kwashizu@uci.edu
Crysta Hu	Graduate Program Coordinator/Personnel Analyst	HIB 461	(949)824-1601	crystafh@uci.edu
Veronica Portal	Undergraduate Coordinator/Finance Assistant	HIB 453	(949)824-0594	vportal@uci.edu

Faculty

Core Faculty		
Name	Title	Email/Office
Chungmoo Choi	Ph.D. Indiana University, Associate Professor (modern Korea, post-colonial and colonial discourse, popular culture, anthropology)	cchoi@uci.edu HIB 473
HuYing	Ph.D. Princeton University, Professor (modern Chinese literature and culture, translation study, feminist theories)	huying@uci.edu HIB 475
Martin Huang	Ph.D. Washington University, Professor (traditional Chinese narrative, narrative theory, cultural history of late imperial China)	mwhuang@uci.edu HIB 474
Kyung Hyun Kim	Ph.D. University of Southern California, Department Chair and Professor (East Asian cinema, modern Korea, critical theory)	kyunghk@uci.edu HIB 457
Margherita Long	Ph.D. Princeton University, Associate Professor (Japanese literature and film, ecocriticism, peace activism, feminist theory, eco- documentary)	margherita.long@uci.edu, HIB 476
Jon Pitt	Ph.D. University of California Berkeley, Assistant Professor of Japanese Environmental Humanities (Japanese Literature, Cinema, and Sound Media, Environmental Philosophy, Ecocriticism, Affect Theory, New Materialism, Speculative Realism/Object Oriented Ontology)	jpitt@uci.edu HIB 478
Bert Scruggs	Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, Associate Professor (Taiwanese Literature Studies, Postcoloniality, Indigenization, Localisms)	bms@uci.edu HIB 479
Serk-Bae Suh	Ph.D. UCLA, Associate Professor (Modern Korean Literature)	suhsb@uci.edu HIB 472
Marco Silva Fonseca	Ph.D., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2023, Linguistics Assistant Professor of Teaching of Japanese, East Asian Studies Interests: Second Language Acquisition, Phonetics/Phonology, Japanese Language Pedagogy	msilvafo@uci.edu HIB 468
Xiao Rao	Ph.D., Stanford University, East Asian Languages and Cultures Assistant Professor of Chinese, East Asian Studies. Interests: Premodern Chinese literature, religion and literature, anecdotes, emotion studies	x.rao@uci.edu HIB 470

The Ph.D. Program in East Asian Studies

Advising

Upon acceptance to the doctoral program and in consultation with the Graduate Faculty Advisor, the student is assigned a primary Faculty Advisor and an alternate Faculty Advisor (in case the primary advisor is temporarily absent). In accordance with the student's stated interests on the application for admission, the Faculty Advisor will help the student map out an appropriate course of study that prepares the student for the qualifying exams and the writing of the doctoral thesis. The Faculty Advisor will, if applicable, evaluate the transcripts of students who transfer from other graduate programs in order to determine which courses will apply toward requirements for the Ph.D. All students are required to meet quarterly with their Faculty Advisor no later than the second week of instruction. The purpose of these meetings is to advise students in their courses of graduate study, monitor their progress towards the timely completion of the Ph.D. degree, and keep them up-to-date on departmental and university requirements. If necessary, the Faculty Advisor may convene a meeting of professors with whom the student has studied to evaluate academic progress and performance. The Faculty Advisor will head the Ph.D. Exam Committee and presumably (although not necessarily) direct the dissertation. The Faculty Advisor chairs the Ph.D. Exam Committee and organizes and coordinates the qualifying exam. In addition, the Faculty Advisor informs the Graduate Faculty Director and Graduate Program Administration about the qualifying exam (dates, committee membership, and outcome). The student may petition the Departmental Chair or Faculty Graduate Director for a change of advisor or committee (except between the qualifying exam and any retake); any change must be approved by the Faculty Graduate Director.

Student Progress Evaluations

At the end of every academic year each graduate student will work with his/her advisor to complete a progress report. The report will include the courses taught by the student, professional development activities, and fellowships received. The report will allow the student to discuss his/her goals for the coming academic year, progress towards advancement or progress towards completion of the dissertation, and list any concerns related to teaching or the program in general. The advisor will also provide a brief assessment detailing the student's progress and performance as well as list any concerns if applicable. Both the student and advisor will sign the form and submit it to the Graduate Program Administrator. The reports will be reviewed by the department chair and faculty director of graduate studies, and kept in the student's file.

Specializations

Students must select one of three specializations as their principal pursuit: Chinese, Japanese, or East Asian Cultural Studies. Students may, in addition, select an emphasis, for which they receive certification. Please see the [UCI General Catalogue](#) for more information.

Graduate students must take [15 graduate courses](#) in a program of study planned in consultation with their faculty advisors.

Specialization in Chinese

Course Work:

A. Select three courses from Chinese 201-204.

Chinese 201: Readings in Traditional Chinese Narrative and Prose

Chinese 202: Readings in Traditional Chinese Poetry

Chinese 203: Readings in Modern Chinese Literature

Chinese 204: Readings in Chinese Literary and Cultural Theory

B. Select either Chinese 211A-B or Chinese 212A-B.

Chinese 211A-B: Studies in Traditional Chinese Narrative and Prose

Chinese 212A-B: Studies in Traditional Chinese Poetry

C. Complete Chinese 213A-B and Chinese 214.

Chinese 213A-B: Studies in Modern Chinese Literature

Chinese 214A-B: Studies in Chinese Literary and Cultural Theory

D. Select seven additional courses (of which one may be in the graduate teaching program).

At least three of these additional courses must be taken outside the department on a relevant topic in literary or cultural theory. Courses taken to fulfill language requirements may not be counted toward the course work requirement.

Language Requirements:

Before advancing to candidacy, all students must have completed:

Four years of modern Chinese,

Two years of classical Chinese,

Three years of modern Japanese, and

Reading proficiency in another appropriate language.

The requirement for a second year of classical Chinese may be fulfilled by taking three Readings courses in classical literature. The Japanese requirement may be fulfilled by an examination administered by the department.

Specialization in Japanese

Course Work:

A. Select three courses from Japanese 201-205.

Japanese 201: Readings in Traditional Japanese Prose

Japanese 202: Readings in Traditional Japanese Poetry or Drama

Japanese 203: Readings in Modern Japanese Literature

Japanese 204: Readings in Traditional Japanese Literary and Cultural Theory

Japanese 205: Readings in Japanese Religion

B. Select either Japanese 211A-B or Japanese 212A-B.

Japanese 211A-B: Studies in Traditional Japanese Prose

Japanese 212A-B: Studies in Traditional Japanese Poetry or Drama

C. Complete Japanese 213A-B and Japanese 214.

Japanese 213A-B: Studies in Modern Japanese Literature

Japanese 214: Studies in Traditional Japanese Literary and Cultural Theory

D. Select seven additional courses (of which one may be in the graduate teaching program).

At least three of these additional courses must be taken outside the department on a relevant topic in literary or cultural theory. Courses taken to fulfill language requirements may not be counted toward the course work requirement.

Language Requirements:

Before advancing to candidacy, all Japanese Ph.D. students must have completed:

Four years of modern Japanese

One year of classical Japanese

Demonstrate reading knowledge of an appropriate second language.

In addition, Classical Japanese students must have completed: one year of classical Chinese

Specialization in East Asian Cultural Studies

Course Work: Select four Theory and Cultural Studies graduate courses. Select four graduate courses in Chinese, Japanese or Korean. And select seven additional courses (of which one may be in the graduate teaching program). At least three of these additional courses must be taken outside the department on a relevant topic in literary or cultural theory. Courses taken to fulfill language requirements may not be counted toward the course work requirement. Other Requirements: Before advancing to candidacy, all students must have completed: Examinations in four areas as determined upon consultation with faculty advisors. These areas will vary according to the interests of the student; examples might be Colonial and Postcolonial Theories; Modernity and East Asia; Critique of Asian Studies as a field; Gender, Class and East Asia; Visual Culture and Japan; and Theorizing Minority Status in East Asia. Four years of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean, or the equivalent. Three years or the equivalent in a second East Asian language is recommended. Much of this work may, of course, have been completed prior to admission.

Emphases

Several emphases are available to graduate students in the East Asian Department regardless of their degree specializations. They add a special dimension to scholarly training and broaden students' marketability as teachers in institutes of higher learning.

These emphases include:

- AsianAmericanStudies ●
- CriticalTheory ●
- FeministStudies ●
- FilmandMediaStudies ●
- LatinAmericanStudies ●
- MedicalHumanities ●
- VisualStudies

These emphases are managed by different departments. For information about applications and requirements, visit humanities.uci.edu/graduate/degrees-emphases

Qualifying Examinations

If you entered the graduate program with an M.A., you should START PREPARING for the qualifying exam at the BEGINNING of your second year.

If you entered the graduate program with a B.A., you should START PREPARING for the qualifying exam at the END of the second year.

You must have completed the following requirements before taking the Qualifying Exam:

1. Complete your program of study consisting of 15 graduate courses.
2. Prepare one paper of publishable quality pending approval of the PhD advisor.
3. Complete all language requirements
4. Prepare five research reports on current scholarly materials (books or significant articles) to be decided upon in consultation with your faculty advisor.

Checklist for the qualifying examination:

- o Exam Committee Selection—Determine your faculty advisory committee chairperson and work closely with him/her in selecting your other committee members. The committee consists of four (4) members, at least three (3) of whom will be from our department or from the roster of affiliated faculty.
- o Written Exams—The Qualifying Examination tests you on four topics or fields to be selected in consultation with your faculty advisory committee no less than two quarters before the examinations are to be taken. One of the topics should be related directly to your projected area of specialization in dissertation research.
- o Examination Reading Lists—You should submit four preliminary examination topics and reading lists for your committee's approval to the exam committee Chair no less than one quarter before the examination is to be taken. Your submission should include (1) a one-paragraph heading for each field that articulates the subject, issue, or problem to be addressed, as well as its scope; and (2) a reading list for each field that adequately represents the topic. A typical list in each field, prepared in the form of a bibliography, comprises 20-30 major (i.e. book-length) or otherwise pertinent texts, including both primary and secondary texts where appropriate.
- o Scheduling Your Exams—You need to work closely with your committee chair to schedule your exams in accordance with the convenience and availability of your committee members. The Ph.D. Qualifying Exam consists of written and oral segments. Questions for written response will be drawn up by the faculty committee and will relate to the chosen topics, reading lists, and bibliographies. If the qualifying exam is taken during the summer months, the written segment should be completed by August 31. If taken during the Fall, Winter, or Spring quarter, it must be completed by the end of the ninth week.
- o Submission of Final Headnotes/Lists—You must submit final headnotes and complete booklists to each member of your exam committee, the committee chair, and the

Graduate Advisor one month prior to examination date.

o Written Examination—The written exam segment will be taken over a four-day period. Exams must be taken on consecutive normal business days, with a one-day break or weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in between exams permitted. Each written exam will be four hours in length, with one additional hour permitted for editing. No electronic media of any kind will be allowed in the testing room. You will be required to leave backpacks, purses, etc. in the Graduate Coordinator's office. Use of the Internet is not allowed during the Qualifying Exams. Open or closed book policy and the use of notes will be determined in close consultation with the examiner. Exams are in-class and students will use the department's computer to complete the written exams. Personal computer use will not be permitted. If you fail any field or topic, you may retake that portion of the test no sooner than one month and no longer than one quarter after the original test. If you fail on the second try, you will be dropped from the graduate program.

o Oral Examination—You are responsible for scheduling your oral exam at least one month prior to the actual date it will be held in order to assure faculty availability. The oral exam usually takes place about one week after the written exam, contingent on your successful performance in the former. The oral exam, which often begins with a brief presentation on a subject selected by the student in consultation with the committee between the written and oral exams, will focus on particular aspects of the written examination and then extend to broader questions. If you fail the oral examination, you may retake the oral portion no more than one quarter after the original exam. If you fail on the second attempt, you will be dropped from the Graduate program.

o Advancement—Upon passing the written and/or oral examinations, a student advances to candidacy in that quarter as long as the PhD Form I is submitted and approved to the Graduate Division by the advancement deadline. Advancement deadlines are posted on the Graduate Division website. Students must also pay the \$90.00 advancement to candidacy fee* before submitting the PhD Form I.

*This fee is subject to change. Students should check the Registrar's website for current fee information.

Advancement To Candidacy

Students who complete the qualifying examinations successfully will become ABDs, i.e. advance to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree and will be considered Ph.D. candidates. They will then write a doctoral dissertation on a topic developed in consultation with the Dissertation Committee. Some period of study abroad, for enhancement of language proficiency and/or dissertation research, is strongly encouraged.

o Approval of the Dissertation—The Ph.D. candidate must allow Dissertation Committee members at least three weeks from the time the manuscript is received until the

committee members' signatures are needed; the faculty will not assume responsibility for missed deadlines and additional enrollment fees if this three-week reading period is not provided by the candidate. The Dissertation Committee certifies that the completed dissertation is satisfactory through the signatures of all committee members on the signature page of the completed dissertation.

- o Report on Final Examinations (Ph.D. Form II) - Upon completion and approval of the dissertation, the Dissertation Committee recommends, by submission of Ph.D. Form II, the conferral of the Ph.D. subject to final submission of the approved dissertation for deposit in the University Archives.
- o The Submission of the Dissertation - The submission of the dissertation is the last step in the program leading to the award of an advanced degree. All dissertations submitted in fulfillment of requirements for advanced degrees at UCI must conform to certain University regulations and specifications with regard to format and method of preparation. The Dissertation Director and student are responsible for the content and final presentation of the manuscript. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all formatting workshops have been canceled. The slide deck from previous workshops is available to view [here](#), complete with speaker notes. If you have any questions, please email gradthesis@uci.edu.

After the dissertation has been approved by the committee, the original and the photocopy are submitted with the appropriate forms to University Archives (Main Library, Room 525, (949) 824-7227). There is also an option effective 2009 that the dissertation may be submitted electronically. See UCI Dissertation - Electronic Submission for details. The librarian will inspect the manuscript for completion and proper preparation (e.g. appropriate paper type, margins, pagination) according to the UCI Thesis and Dissertation Manual. The librarian will also verify that the committee signatures have been obtained and the degree paperwork has been completed. Library Archives has the responsibility of ensuring that the established procedures and standards for manuscript preparation are upheld. The advanced degree manuscript is expected to be submitted by the deadline in the quarter in which the degree is to be conferred. **Friday of the tenth week of classes is the deadline for submitting theses and dissertations during each quarter.** However, those students who complete requirements and submit dissertations after the end of the tenth week of classes and prior to the start of the subsequent quarter will earn a degree for the following quarter, but will not be required to pay fees for that quarter. In order to avoid payment of fees, manuscript, all forms, and degree paperwork must be submitted prior to the first day of the quarter in which the degree is to be earned. Please refer to the Office of Graduate Studies Filing Deadlines form for up-to-date information.

Policies

General Department Policies

Independent Study Courses (290)

290 contracts must be signed by the student and instructor and submitted to the Graduate Coordinator by the second week of classes. The Graduate Coordinator will secure the Chair's signature and then place copies in the respective student's and instructor's mailbox. Evaluation of 290s must be submitted to the Graduate Coordinator one week after grades are submitted for the applicable quarter.

Progress toward the Degree

The student must advance to candidacy and complete the degree within the limitations stabled by UCI's Graduate Council. A student exceeding the maximal time to degree shall be deemed not to be making satisfactory progress toward their degree; moreover, they shall not receive University resources (e.g. financial aid, TA-ships, housing, etc.)

The UCI Graduate Council has approved the following for the department:

- o normaltimeto advancement:4years*
- o normaltimetodegree:7years
- o maximumtimetodegree:8years

*This may differ for students entering the program with a Master's degree and for those who are given credit for courses taken elsewhere. International students The first three years of non-resident supplemental tuition is covered by the school and Graduate Division through the non-resident supplemental tuition (NRST) remission initiative program (<https://grad.uci.edu/funding/nrst-remission-program/>). International students must advance to candidacy by the end of their year 3. Post-advancement, nonresident students are eligible for a 100% reduction in the NRST for a **maximum of three consecutive calendar years including time on leave of absence**. This reduction in NRST begins with the first academic term following advancement to candidacy. Any nonresident student, who continues to be registered, or who re-registers following the three-consecutive-year maximum time, will be charged the full NRST rate that is in effect at that time of enrollment. Other General Information Everyone involved in the Ph.D. programs in East Asian Studies has an interest in seeing degrees completed as soon as is consistent with sound professional achievement. Graduate students, especially, gain financially and professionally by finishing in a timely fashion. To prolong the degree is to risk flagging intellectual interest and energy, and there is strong evidence that a long, drawn-out degree makes the candidate less competitive on the job market. Each stage of our Ph.D. degrees is designed to be reached in a normative period, and it is to every student's advantage to move forward according to those periods. Of course, illness and unforeseen personal circumstances may cause delay, but where these are not an issue, the department does expect students to follow the normative times to advancement and degree completion. Students should be aware that lack of reasonable progress is a consideration in the awarding of TAships. In extreme cases it can result in disqualification from the program.

UC Irvine Policies

The below policies come from the Graduate Division, the UCI Catalogue, and the Office of Academic Integrity & Student Conduct. For more detail and forms related to these policies, visit <https://grad.uci.edu/current-students/student-resources/>

For assistance, please also refer to the EAS Graduate Program Administrator

Academic dishonesty: Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in the Department of East Asian Studies. Please visit

<https://aisc.uci.edu/policies/academic-integrity/index.php> for more information.

Annual progress review/dismissal: The East Asian Studies Department reviews Ph.D.

candidates' progress on their degree regularly and expects students to be making satisfactory progress while enrolled in the program. If a student is not making satisfactory progress, they may be placed on probation or asked to leave the program.

In absentia registration: In absentia status is a form of registration available to academic and professional degree graduate students undertaking necessary coursework or research related to their degree programs outside of California or in some cases by exception, within California but outside the Southern California area. Students can take up to 6 quarters in absentia.

Incompletes: Students must resolve all incompletes before August 31st before they can be considered for aTA-ship that academic year. After 1 year, the Incomplete will become an "F."

The Graduate Incomplete form is available here: [Incomplete \(I\) Grade Agreement Form](#)

Lapse of Candidacy: Candidacy for the Ph.D. will lapse automatically if the student loses graduate standing by academic disqualification or failure to comply with the University policy on continuous registration. A readmitted student who was a candidate for the Ph.D. must again advance to candidacy and thereafter enroll as a candidate for at least one academic quarter before the Ph.D. will be conferred.

Leave of absence: Students may apply for a leave of absence when they are facing personal troubles (such as health or family demands) that make them unable to perform their academic responsibilities. Applications are submitted to the Graduate Director during the enrollment period for the quarter in which enrollment and registration are not planned. Normally, no more than three quarters of leave will be allowed, and then only according to strict guidelines. The deadline to submit an approved Leave of Absence petition to the Graduate Division is **Friday of the third week of classes.**

Non-resident tuition: Students who are on leave for three consecutive quarters during which they live outside of California will be assessed non-resident tuition upon return to enrolled status.

Part-time student status: Ph.D. candidates, especially those in the advanced stages of dissertation writing, may be eligible for approved part-time status, which allows students to take a lighter course load at reduced fees for a maximum of three consecutive quarters.

Resources and Services

School of Humanities Office of Graduate Study Contacts

- o Yong Chen, Associate Dean
 - o 239 Krieger Hall | (949) 824-4303 | y3chen@uci.edu
- o Geneva Lopez, Director of Graduate Studies
 - o HIB143, (949) 824-4403 | lopezg@uci.edu
- o Kimberly Pham, Graduate Student Personnel Analyst
 - o HIB143, (949) 824-6441 | kimbenp1@uci.edu

Graduate Emphasis Contacts

- o [Graduate Emphasis in Asian American Studies](#)
 - o Julia Lee, Department Chair
 - (949) 824-4421 | juliahl1@uci.edu
 - o Sofia Barsan Academic Program Coordinator
 - sbarsan@uci.edu
- o [Graduate Emphasis in Critical Theory](#)
 - o Matthew Canepa, Department Chair
 - (949) 824-2746 | matthew.canepa@uci.edu | criticaltheory@uci.edu
- o [Graduate Emphasis in Feminist Studies](#)
 - o Hannah Kanenbley, Graduate Department Coordinator
 - (949) 824-0318 | hkanenbl@uci.edu
- o Graduate Emphasis in Film and Media Studies
 - o Amy Fujitani, Department Manager
 - (949) 824-8596 | amy.fujitani@uci.edu
- o [Graduate Emphasis in Latin American Studies](#)
 - o Linda Le, Department Manager
 - (949) 824-7726 | ttle@uci.edu
- o [Graduate Emphasis in Medical Humanities](#)
 - o Miriam Torres, Department Coordinator
 - (949) 824-6525 | mruvalc2@uci.edu
- o [Graduate Emphasis in Visual Studies](#)
 - o Roberta Wue, Director of Graduate Studies,
 - (949) 824-1124 | rwue@uci.edu
 - o Kimmy Bao, Graduate Program Coordinator
 - kimmybao@uci.edu

Library

- o Ying Zhang, Research Librarian for Asian Studies, 466 Langson Library
 - o (949) 824-0489 | yingz@uci.edu

General Graduate Student Resources Clickable Links

- o [UCI Graduate Division Graduate Resource Center](#)
- o [School of Humanities Graduate Students Website](#)
- o [Associated Graduate Students of UCI](#)
- o [UCI DECADE Student Council](#)